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NEWBURN URBAN DISTRICT

(County of Northumberland)

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Annual REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and of the

Senior Public Health Inspector

for 1964

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(County of Northumberland)

Annual
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of the
Medical Officer of Health
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Senior
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Health Committee Members

1964-65

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Councillor Mrs. E. Watson

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Officers of the Public Health Department

Medical Officer of Health:
(until September)
MADGE HOPPER, M.B., B.S., B.HY., D.P.H.

Acting Medical Officer of Health:
(September until December)
T. J. W. ROBSON, M.B., B.S.

Senior Public Health Inspector:
JOHN CORNEY, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

First Additional Public Health Inspector:
GEORGE GRAHAM, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Second Additional Public Health Inspector:
JAMES S. GRAHAM, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Pupil Public Health Inspector:
TREVOR HARRIS

Clerk/Shorthand Typist:
MRS. P. E. REDHEAD

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Annual Report
# of the Medical Officer of Health

Telephone: Lemington 674112/3

COUNCIL OFFICES,
NEWBURN,
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE, 5
18*th June*, 1965.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of Newburn

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

It is my honour to present the Annual Report on the health of the district for 1964.

The year was saddened by the death of Dr. Madge Hopper, who had been Medical Officer of Health since 1948. Her outstanding work for the district and the goodwill she created among all with whom she worked will be long remembered. It was particularly unfortunate that her illness and death came at a time when she was about to start a well-deserved retirement.

Since I was not Medical Officer of Health for any part of 1964, I have had to rely on the help of others in the preparation of this report. In particular I would like to thank Mr. Corney for much information, Mr. Graham for help in checking the statistics, and Mrs. Redhead for her work in preparing the draft report.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

H. C. T. SMITH,
Medical Officer of Health.

Newburn Urban District

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in acres	4,648
Registrar General's estimated population	30,730
Number of inhabited houses according to rate book	9,638
Rateable value	£916,473
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£3,915

Population trends :

1951	21,890
1956	25,020
1961	27,980
1962	29,000
1963	30,100
1964	30,730

VITAL STATISTICS

	Numbers			Rates
	M.	F.	Total.	
Live Births	299	282	581	
Crude birth rate per 1,000 population				18·91
Comparability factor, 0·97				
Standardised birth rate per 1,000 population				18·34
Illegitimate Live Births	15	10	25	
Illegitimate live birth rate per 100 live births				4·3
Still-births	6	3	9	
Still-birth rate per 1,000 live and still-births				15·25
Total Live and Still-births	305	285	590	
Infant Deaths (Deaths in first year of life)	8	5	13	
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births				22·38
Legitimate infant mortality rate per 1,000 legitimate live births				19·78
Illegitimate infant mortality rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births				80·0
Neonatal Deaths (Deaths in first four weeks of life)	5	4	9	
Neonatal mortality rate per 1,000 live births				15·49
Perinatal Deaths (Still-births plus deaths in first week of life)	11	6	17	
Perinatal mortality rate per 1,000 total live and still-births				28·8
Legitimate perinatal mortality rate per 1,000 legitimate live and still-births				23·09
Illegitimate perinatal mortality rate per 1,000 illegitimate live and still-births				148·15
Maternal Mortality (including abortions)		Nil		
Deaths	155	154	299	
Crude death rate per 1,000 population				9·73
Comparability factor, 1·26				
Standardised death rate per 1,000 population				12·27

COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEARS

Year	Standardised Death Rate	Standardised Birth Rate	Illegitimate Live Birth Rate	Still-birth Rate	Infant Mortality Rate	Neonatal Mortality Rate	Perinatal Mortality Rate
1956-60	13·6	16·7	1·9	22·2	33·6	25·6	44·4
1961	13·6	16·8	2·7	20·9	19·8	13·6	32·3
1962	13·7	17·1	3·7	21·6	14·7	12·9	32·4
1963	13·9	18·9	3·1	15·1	23·8	13·6	28·5
1964	12·3	18·3	4·3	15·3	22·4	15·5	28·8

COMPARISON WITH OTHER AREAS

1964	Standardised Death Rate	Standardised Birth Rate	Illegitimate Live Birth Rate	Still-birth Rate	Infant Mortality Rate	Neonatal Mortality Rate	Perinatal Mortality Rate
England and Wales	11·3	18·4	7·2	16·3	20·0	13·8	28·2
Northumberland Administrative County	12·6	17·0	6·4	16·0	20·1	14·9	28·5
Urban Districts of Northumberland	12·9	17·0	6·8	16·8	21·2	15·9	29·9
Rural Districts of Northumberland	11·9	16·7	5·2	13·0	16·0	11·5	23·7
Newburn Urban District	12·3	18·3	4·3	15·3	22·4	15·5	28·8

Comparability Factor	County	Urban Districts	Rural Districts	Newburn Urban District
Births	1·01	0·99	1·08	0·97
Deaths	1·07	1·15	0·88	1·26

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE

Cause of Death	Sex	Total All Ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	M.	5	—	—
	F.	4	—	—
11. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	M.	9	—	—
	F.	2	—	—
12. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	M.	—	—	—
	F.	9	—	—
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	M.	9	—	—
	F.	8	—	—
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	M.	—	—	—
	F.	2	—	1
16. Diabetes	M.	—	—	—
	F.	2	—	—
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	M.	16	—	—
	F.	29	—	—
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	M.	45	—	—
	F.	36	—	—
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease	M.	1	—	—
	F.	2	—	—
20. Other Heart Disease	M.	16	—	—
	F.	15	—	—
21. Other Circulatory Disease	M.	10	—	—
	F.	6	—	—
23. Pneumonia	M.	6	—	1
	F.	14	—	—
24. Bronchitis	M.	8	—	—
	F.	2	—	—
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	M.	1	—	—
	F.	1	—	—
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	M.	2	—	1
	F.	1	—	—
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate	M.	2	—	—
31. Congenital Malformations	M.	1	—	1
	F.	1	1	—
32. Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	M.	14	5	—
	F.	13	3	—
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	M.	2	—	—
	F.	—	—	—
34. All other Accidents	M.	7	—	—
	F.	4	—	—
35. Suicide	M.	1	—	—
	F.	3	—	—
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	M.	155	5	3
	F.	154	4	1

DURING 1964 IN THE URBAN DISTRICT OF NEWBURN

Age in Years								
1—	5—	15—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—	75 and over
—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	2
—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
—	—	—	—	1	1	5	2	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	3	3	1	2
—	—	—	1	—	1	3	2	2
—	—	—	—	—	1	2	3	2
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	10
—	—	—	—	—	1	3	7	18
—	—	—	1	3	2	16	12	11
—	—	—	—	1	1	7	19	8
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
—	—	—	1	2	1	2	2	8
—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	12
—	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	5
—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	4
—	—	—	—	—	—	1	6	7
—	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	3
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	1	1	—	—	2	3	2
—	—	—	—	—	1	1	3	5
—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	1	—	2	2	1	1	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—
—	2	2	4	8	11	36	33	51
—	2	1	—	1	7	27	46	65

Causes of Infant Deaths

There were four post-neonatal deaths:

Cause of Death	Age	Sex	Place of Death
Patent ductus arteriosus	4 months	M.	Hospital
Acute myeloid leukaemia	3 months	F.	Home
Gastro enteritis	2 months	M.	Home
Acute bronchiolitis	1 month	M.	Hospital

One death just after the first week:

Hydrocephalus and meningo-myelocoele	1 week	F.	Hospital

The remaining deaths were all within the first week:

Erythoblastosis	4 days	M.	Hospital
Prematurity	3 days	M.	Hospital
Prematurity	15 hours	M.	Hospital
Prematurity	12 hours	M.	Hospital
Prematurity	12 hours	F.	Hospital
Prematurity	6 hours	M.	Hospital
Atelectasis	—	F.	—
Cause unknown	—	F.	—

The last two babies were found within the district and their exact age and place of death are not known.

Principal Causes of Death

	Number	Percentage
Cancer	48	15·5
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	45	14·6
Heart and Circulatory Disease	131	42·4
Chest Diseases	30	9·7
Other Diseases	38	12·3
Violence	17	5·5
	309	100·0

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods	New Cases Notified				Inward Transfers			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5 years	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–
5—14 years	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
15—24 years	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–
25—44 years	1	4	–	–	–	–	–	1
45—64 years	5	2	1	1	–	–	–	–
65 years and over	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
	8	7	1	1	–	2	–	1
	15		2		2		1	
	17				3			

Comparison with Previous Years

Year	New Cases	Inward Transfers	Deaths
Average 1946-50	38	—	13
„ 1951-55	37	17	5
„ 1956-60	20	13	2
1961....	16	5	3
1962....	12	5	2
1963....	19	5	1
1964....	17	3	—

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER, 1964

QUARTER ENDED	Number of cases on register at commencement of quarter		Number of cases notified for the first time		Inward transfers		Number of cases removed from register in a preceding quarter which have been restored to the register during the quarter		Number of cases removed from register		Number of cases remaining on register at end of quarter	
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
31st March, 1964—												
Males	104	14	6	–	–	–	–	–	4	2	106	12
Females	74	20	4	1	1	1	–	–	3	4	76	18
30th June, 1964—												
Males	106	12	–	–	–	–	–	–	4	–	102	12
Females	76	18	2	–	1	–	–	–	1	–	78	18
30th September, 1964—												
Males	102	12	2	1	–	–	–	–	2	–	102	13
Females	78	18	1	–	–	–	–	–	1	1	78	17
31st December, 1964—												
Males	102	13	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	–	99	13
Females	78	17	–	–	–	–	–	–	5	1	73	16

Between the years 1946 and 1960 the tuberculosis situation in this country was transformed. Four main factors were involved.

1. Effective treatment was undoubtedly the most important. New drugs introduced in the late 1940's completely changed the prognosis of the disease. Previously the illness was prolonged, with survival very much in the balance. Nowadays the average patient can look forward to complete cure and the period of incapacity is a matter of three to six months. Follow-up is usually prolonged but this is no hardship to the patient and the number of breakdowns are comparatively few. Deaths from tuberculosis are now about one-tenth of the previous figure.

By quickly rendering the infectious patient non-infectious, treatment is also the most important factor in stopping the spread of tuberculosis. The reduction in the number of tuberculosis patients in hospital has also made it possible to isolate immediately the infectious case.

2. Early diagnosis is of enormous benefit both to the individual and to the community. It makes cure more certain and reduces the time that has to be spent in hospital. It also means that those individuals who are spreading the disease to others can be identified at an early stage and isolated until treatment renders them non-infectious.

Contacts of established cases are seen at the chest clinics. Most are X-rayed and a few are followed up if the contact has been particularly close.

Between 1950 and 1964 Mass Mobile X-ray units were extensively used. These made a yearly visit to most areas and members of the public above the age of 14 were encouraged to come forward. Unfortunately it was the same individuals who were X-rayed every year and they were relatively free of tuberculosis, whereas it was felt, that in the people who did not attend, there was much more tuberculosis. At first, up to 5 per 1,000 of those attending were found to have active tuberculosis, but of recent years this number has dropped to below 1 per 1,000. For these and other reasons it is now thought that the mass X-ray facilities should be used more selectively. In future, more emphasis will be placed on static units open to members of the public who can attend either on the advice of their doctor or on their own initiative. The unit serving Newburn is at the General Hospital and is open at the following times:—

Monday to Friday	10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.
	2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Wednesday Evening	6 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.

It is hoped that all persons who have had a cough or who are feeling out of sorts will attend for an X-ray.

The mobile units will still be used but will concentrate on the most vulnerable groups.

3. B.C.G. vaccination is used for two main groups: (*a*) childhood contacts are done at as early an age as possible, (*b*) all school-children are offered B.C.G. at the age of 12 or 13. This is done after a preliminary Mantoux test and all those negative to the test are given B.C.G. Those positive to the test have an X-ray. Active tuberculosis is seldom found, but a few children who are strongly allergic to tuberculin are followed up.

4. Rising living standards have undoubtedly contributed to the prevention of the disease. The Council play their part here in the housing field by reducing the number of slum and overcrowded dwellings, as well as giving help to families where a member has tuberculosis.

These four factors—treatment, early diagnosis, B.C.G., and improved living standards—accounted for the rapid diminution in the number of new cases between 1950 and 1960. Recent experience has shown a levelling-off and possibly even an increase in the number of new cases.

The main difficulties of the present position are :—

(*a*) The weapons described have now been in use for a number of years and the returns from them are diminishing.

(*b*) Tuberculosis used to affect primarily young adults of both sexes. Now the main reservoir of the disease is in middle-aged and elderly men. Here treatment is less effective due often to co-existing lung disease. This group is less easily persuaded to present itself at Mass X-ray units and B.C.G. does not come into the picture. The elderly have not shared in the present wave of prosperity and in any case it is more difficult to change their methods of living so that social factors in prevention are less relevant with this group.

(*c*) The public may have been rather misled into thinking that tuberculosis is a thing of the past, which is by no means the case.

Thus the campaign against tuberculosis is by no means over and the final phases may be the most difficult of all.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Notifications Received, 1964

Disease	0—1	1—4	5—14	15—44	45—64	65+
Measles	10	70	45	–	–	–
Whooping Cough ..	3	4	–	–	–	–
Pneumonia	–	–	–	–	1	2
Scarlet Fever	–	2	5	–	–	–
Erysipelas	–	–	–	–	1	2
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	–	–	–	1	–	–
Typhoid	–	–	–	–	1	1
Dysentery	–	6	6	4	–	–
Poliomyelitis	–	–	1	–	–	–

Typhoid

Two cases occurred. A couple had been in Aberdeen staying with their son and daughter-in-law. The daughter-in-law developed typhoid during their stay.

The couple returned to Newburn on 16th May and became ill shortly afterwards. A diagnosis of typhoid was made and they were admitted to Walkergate Hospital on 22nd May.

Both were discharged from hospital at the end of June. Specimens were taken at intervals during the next month but all were negative. They lived alone. All persons in contact with them were checked but there was no spread of the organism.

Two other persons who were in Aberdeen in May had specimens taken as a precaution but they were negative.

As a result of the Aberdeen epidemic and other outbreaks, corned beef came under suspicion. It was found that a number of consignments had been cooled in unchlorinated water and it was advised that these be withdrawn from sale. This involved the Public Health Inspectors in a great deal of work, especially as the Ministry of Health issued a number of different instructions about the batch numbers involved.

Paratyphoid

A girl who worked in a children's home where there was an outbreak of paratyphoid became ill. A number of specimens were taken from her and her family but all were negative.

Other Salmonella Infections

Three sporadic cases occurred, one of S. heidelberg and two of S. typhi murium. All were investigated but the source was not traced.

Poliomyelitis

A boy aged five was admitted to Newcastle General Hospital with encephalitis on 6th February, 1964. He was subsequently found to be excreting Type 3 poliomyelitis vaccine in his stools. The child had received a reinforcing dose of oral poliomyelitis vaccine some three months earlier.

As a precaution, 34 classmates and 50 home contacts were traced and given a dose of oral poliomyelitis vaccine. In this work the help of Mr. Dodds (Senior Clerk at the Area Office, Throckley) and Miss Ford (Senior Health Visitor, Throckley Clinic) is gratefully acknowledged.

Dysentery

Sporadic cases of Sonnei dysentery occurred and were followed up. One case was in a self-employed food handler working in another district. It was thought necessary to keep this person off work for a time and compensation amounting to £27 1s. was paid under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1961. A local food van driver was also kept off work as members of his family had dysentery. Compensation in this instance amounted to £22 18s. 11d.

An isolated case of Flexner Type 6 dysentery occurred. This organism turns up from time to time in the area, especially in institutions.

WATER SUPPLY

The water to this area is supplied by the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company. One of the first duties of a Medical Officer of Health is to inform himself about the water supply to the area. As it may be of interest, a description of the sources, the treatment and the control of the water supply has been set down. This information has been obtained from Dr. Palin, the Chief Chemist to the Company, and I am very much indebted to him.

Sources of Supply

	Percentage of Total Supply
1. Upland Surface Reservoirs:	
Catcleugh	48
Colt-crag and Little Swinburn	8
East and West Hallington	8
Whittledene	13
	77
2. River Water:	
River Tyne at Barrasford (into West Hallington)	1
River Tyne at Wylam (Pre-chlorinated and into Whittledene)	22
	23

The water from Catcleugh, Colt-crag and Little Swinburn, and Hallington is conveyed by pipeline tunnel or open water course to Whittledene and is purified either there or at Throckley treatment works.

Purification

There are three elements in the purification of the supply:—

1. *Storage*

This is done primarily to even out the supply but has the incidental effect of reducing the bacterial count very considerably.

2. *Filtration*

At Throckley treatment works rapid gravity and pressure filters are in use. The water is pre-treated with alum or other coagulant and passes through the filters in a matter of 15 minutes. The filters are cleaned by back washing at an increased rate of flow. Similar arrangements exist at Whittledene and also some of the old-fashioned type of slow sand filter. These are efficient but take up a lot of space and are costly to run.

3. *Chlorination*

The water from the River Tyne at Wylam is chlorinated at source. At the filter works under ordinary circumstances 0·15 parts per million of ammonia and 0·6 parts per million of chlorine are added. This can be varied according to the amount of residual chlorine.

Distribution

The lower lying parts of the area, that is Newburn, Walbottle, and Lemington, are supplied direct from Whittledene and Throckley. The water to the higher parts goes first to Benwell reservoir and from there is pumped to Fenham reservoir. From there the Denton area, Westerhope and Throckley are supplied.

Sampling

Samples are taken by the Company before and after treatment of the water. Domestic supplies are sampled by the Public Health Inspectors. Two methods are available, chemical and bacteriological.

1. *Bacteriological Sampling*

This demonstrates the presence of the organism B. coli as so many per 100 millilitres of water. When this organism is present it indicates that there has been faecal pollution of the water.

The water from the upland sources has a variable number of B. coli on arrival at Whittledene. The average is about 50 per 100 ml. The Tyne water is very heavily polluted at source but after chlorination (that is before entering the reservoir at Whittledene) the number of B. coli is negligible.

After filtration and chlorination a total of 1,240 works control samples were taken from Whittledene and Throckley. Only one of these indicated any degree of pollution.

2. *Sampling at Newburn*

		Probable Numbers per 100 ml.	
Date	Place	Coliform baccilli	B. coli type
September	Throckley	0	0
October	Lemington	0	0
,,	,,	0	0
,,	,,	0	0
November	,,	0	0
,,	,,	0	0
,,	,,	0	0

3. *Chemical Analysis*

TYPICAL RESULTS OF CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF FILTERED WATERS

	Max.	Min.	Mean
pH Value	7·7	6·8	7·2
Free CO_2	16	2	6
Alkalinity (as $CaCO_3$)	140	50	84
Hardness (as $CaCO_3$)—			
Total	194	92	138
Carbonate	140	50	84
Non-Carbonate	108	28	54
Calcium	176	66	112
Magnesium	60	16	26
Chlorides (as Cl)	17	9	12
Sulphates (as SO_4)	72	18	46
Silica (as SiO_2)	4·2	0·8	2·4
Fluorides (as F)	0·3	0·1	0·2
Iron (as Fe)	0·25	0·01	0·07
Manganese (as Mn)	0·05	0·01	0·01
Free and Saline Ammonia (as N)	0·23	0·04	0·12
Albuminoid Ammonia (as N)	0·20	0·01	0·09
Nitrates (as N)	2·0	0·1	0·8
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate	3·4	1·0	2·0
Dissolved Solids	280	130	210

Chemical results in milligrams per litre.

NOTES :

1. Over much of the distribution system the water is a blend of the products of the principal treatment plants.

2. These plants in turn receive water in variable proportions from the several sources utilised by the Company.

3. It is therefore difficult to predict the composition of the supply to any particular point and the maxima and minima quoted are not to be regarded as absolute values but rather as limits not likely to be exceeded in normal circumstances.

Individual Supplies

All properties in the district have an internal mains water supply.

Quantity

No restrictions were placed on the use of water during 1964.

Annual Report
# of the Senior Public Health Inspector

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my Report for the year 1964.

Dr. Smith, in his Report, has referred to the great sorrow felt in the department by the death of Dr. Hopper and I would add a comment, having worked with her since she was appointed in 1948. Dr. Hopper was a Medical Officer with whom it was a pleasure to work, and her approach to her duties did much to ensure the smooth running of the department. She had the good wishes of her colleagues for a well-earned retirement and it was a tragedy that she did not live to enjoy it.

The work of the department continued steadily throughout the year, the following subjects being worthy of particular mention.

Rehousing from unfit properties was at a quicker rate than in previous years, 129 families being accommodated. The only property left in the district of genuine clearance standard is Lloyd Street, Stanley Street, and Union Street, Lemington, after which, attention will have to be given to what may be called " twilight " properties, i.e., those houses which are not within the terms of Section 4 of the Housing Act, 1957, but which, nevertheless are lacking in amenities, suffer from a degree of disrepair, and are not suitable for treatment under the Improvement Grant provisions of the Housing Acts. It would seem that the time has arrived when a more realistic standard should be devised for dealing with unfit property.

In connection with the condemnation of 68 houses at Mount Pleasant, Throckley, a claim for a well-maintained payment amounting to £3,088 was accepted.

Further progress under the Clean Air Act, 1956, resulted in a third Smoke Control Order being made in October. The Order, known as the Newburn No. 3 (West Denton) Smoke Control Order, covering an area of some 22 acres and including 205 houses at Chapel House Road, Chapel House Drive, Chapel House Grove, Westlands, Northcote Avenue, and part of Hill Head Road was confirmed by the Minister in January, 1965, to become operative in September of that year.

The trend in atmospheric pollution continued, as previously noted, with a slight decrease in the amount of smoke recorded and a slight increase in sulphur dioxide. It is interesting to note that the height of a chimney serving an oil-fired plant had to be allowed at 30 feet because the plant served an office-block, whereas had it served industrial premises the chimney height would have had to be 56 feet. There seems to be grounds here for a revision of the terms of Section 10 of the Clean Air Act.

Inspections under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, were considerably higher than in the previous year, largely because of more than a hundred visits to food premises checking 6 lb. cans of corned beef which might have been cooled in unchlorinated water. The Food Hygiene Regulations were well observed and formal action was not required. Court proceedings were necessary, however, in dealing with contraventions of Section 2 of the Act, details being as follows:—

1. Packet of flour containing extraneous matter—
   Retailer fined £50 with £8 10s. costs.
2. Packet of frozen peas containing a slug—
   Canning firm fined £20 with £8 10s. costs.
3. Steak and kidney pies affected with mould—
   Retailer fined £20 with £9 3s. costs.
4. Meat pies affected with mould—
   Retailer fined £10 with £9 3s. costs.
5. Packet of dried peas containing cigarette end—
   Retailer fined £20 with £5 5s. costs.

The paper sack system of refuse collection continued to operate satisfactorily and at the end of the year 997 houses on the Chapel House Farm Estate had been equipped with sack-holders. The system was also introduced on the Pilton Park Estate at Westerhope and at the new development in Walbottle Village. Because of the changing nature of refuse, resulting in more and more bulk having to be dealt with, demonstrations of compression-type vehicles were arranged, and subsequently a Dennis Paxit Major IIIA was ordered for delivery in 1965. This vehicle compresses up to 1,800 lb./sq. in. pressure and has a capacity of 50 cu. yd. Salvage collection continued to improve and had not a second outlet been found, the quota imposed by the board mills would have caused considerable difficulty. Prospects improved towards the end of the year and we are now able to despatch all the salvage collected. The Costing Return included in the statistical section of the report shows that at a time of rising prices, the cost per 1,000 premises for refuse removal continues to be very reasonable. I once more acknowledge my appreciation of the way in which Mr. Gray, the foreman, and the refuse collection personnel have carried out their work.

The interest shown and encouragement given by the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee is much appreciated, as is the co-operation of the Chief Officers of the Council. My thanks are due to Mr. G. Graham, Mr. J. S. Graham, the Additional Inspectors, to Mrs. Redhead, the Clerk/Shorthand Typist in the department, and to Mr. Harris, the Pupil Public Health Inspector, all of whom have performed their duties in a commendable manner. Miss Anne Taylor joined the staff as Junior Clerk in November and I hope she will find satisfaction in making a career in local government.

In conclusion, I would like to offer a very warm welcome to Dr. Smith on his appointment as Medical Officer of Health, and look forward to a long period of co-operation with him in the interesting and varied work of the Health Department.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. CORNEY,

Senior Public Health Inspector.

INSPECTIONS OF DISTRICT

Nature of Inspections:	VISITS
Clean Air Act	300
Disinfection	5
Disinfestation	172
Factories Act, Section 7	32
Food and Drugs Act	387
Housing	797
Ice-cream Sampling	12
Infectious Diseases	446
Meat Inspection	60
Moveable Dwellings	2
National Assistance Act, Section 5	4
Nuisances	104
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	38
Public Health Education	1
Refuse Collection	514
Rodent Control	85
Shops Act, 1950	23
Smoke Control Areas	246
Special	193
Water Supply	13
Total Visits for 1964	3,433

Defects Remedied:	
Brickwork repointed or rebuilt	22
Burst pipes repaired	11
Ceilings repaired	7
Chimneys repaired	7
Choked drains cleared	12
Concrete surfaces repaired or renewed	18
Dampness remedied	7
Doors repaired or renewed	27
Dry rot remedied	1
Dustbins provided	5
Eaves gutters repaired	12
Facilities for cooking provided	1
Floors repaired	8
Fireplaces repaired	2
Plasterwork repaired	24
Rain-water pipes cleared and renewed	6
Roofs repaired	19
Rubbish removed	3
Septic tank cleaned	1
Sinks repaired or renewed	1
Waste pipes repaired	12
W.C. apparatus overhauled	21
Windows repaired or renewed	7
Woodwork repaired or renewed	8

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR YEAR 1964

New Houses completed during the year	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
(*a*) By Local Authority	125	—	125
(*b*) By any other Housing Authority	—	—	—
(*c*) By Private Persons	—	321	321

Total number of inhabited houses in District	9,860
Total number of houses owned by Local Authority	2,992

CLOSING AND DEMOLITION.

(1) Houses demolished in Clearance Areas	Nil
(2) Houses demolished not in Clearance Areas	98
(3) Houses closed, not demolished	84
(4) Any other houses permanently discontinued as dwellings and not included above	Nil

REPAIRS.

Houses made fit

(5) By informal action	65
(6) By owners, following statutory notice	2
(7) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(8) Demolition Orders revoked after reconstruction	Nil
(9) Houses in Clearance Areas patched for temporary accommodation	Nil

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

(*a*) *Discretionary.*

(1) Applications submitted to Local Authority during year	49
(2) Applications rejected	2
(3) Applications approved	47
(4) Approximate average grant approved per house	£201
(5) Total number of houses approved for grant in area since inception of scheme	278

(*b*) *Standard.*

	During the year	Total to date
(1) Number of separate houses for which grants have been made	24	151
(2) Number of houses so provided with:—		
(i) Bath or shower	9	103
(ii) Wash hand basin	12	115
(iii) Hot water supply	8	98
(iv) Water closet	23	122
(v) Food store	10	75

CLEARANCE AREA PROGRAMME, 1956

YEAR 1964

	Location	No. of houses to be demolished		Remarks
1st Year	Bank Top, Throckley	29		Rehoused 1957/58
	Fireman's Row, Newburn	12		,, 1957/58
	Chapel Row, North Walbottle	11		,, 1956/57
	Laurel Street, Throckley	20		,, 1958
2nd Year	Maple Street, Throckley	26		,, 1959/60
	Sycamore Street, Throckley	26		,, 1958/59
	Beech Street, Throckley	19		,, 1960
3rd Year	Ash Street East, Throckley	5		,, 1960
	Elm Street, Throckley....	26		,, 1962
	Ash Street, Throckley	15		,, 1963
	Coronation Row, North Walbottle	10		,, 1963
4th Year	The Green, Low Square, School Bank, and Queen's Row, Walbottle	21	10	,, 1964
	Northumberland Terrace, Newburn	11		,, 1963
	Pit Bank and Paper Mill, Scotswood	12		,, 1957/61
5th Year	Albert Terrace, Newburn	19		,, 1964
	Victoria Terrace, Newburn	17		,, 1964
	Pit Cottages, Throckley	26		,, 1963/64
	Temporary Prefabricated Bungalows, Lemington	50		,, 1964
6th Year	Mount Pleasant, Throckley	68	38	,, 1964
7th Year	Union Street, Lemington	43		
8th Year	Stanley Street, Lemington	41		
	Lloyd Street, Lemington	24		
9th Year	Dene Terrace, Walbottle	31*		
	North View, North Walbottle....	18		

* Delete, Improvement Grants authorised, after repair work completed.

Individual unfit houses dealt with.

Number		Year
6	....	1957
2	....	1958
5	....	1959
3	....	1960
4	....	1961
1	....	1962
6	....	1963
–	....	1964

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

PART I OF THE ACT

1. *INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to Health.*

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	2	—	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	58	32	—	—
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	60	32	—	—

2. *Cases in which DEFECTS were found.*

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—					
(*a*) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(*b*) Unsuitable or defective	5	5	—	—	—
(*c*) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)....	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	5	5	—	—	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK (*Section* 133)

Nature of Work	No. of Out-workers in August list required by Section 133 (1) (*c*)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of Prosecutions for failure to supply lists
Wearing apparel :			
Making, etc.	3	—	—
Cleaning and washing	—	—	—
Doll's Clothing	1	—	—
TOTAL	4	—	—

FOOD INSPECTIONS

Unsound Food.	SURRENDERED
Tins of Meat Products	42 tins
Cooked Meat and Meat Products	27 lb.
Tins of Fruit and Vegetables	14 tins
Other foods	3 tins

MILK AND DAIRIES (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1959

Number of Registered Dairies	5
Number of Registered Distributors	50

ICE-CREAM PREMISES

Number on Register at commencement of year	63
Number on Register at end of year	65

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

Number of Registered Slaughterhouses	1

FOOD PREMISES

Number of shops where food is handled		133
Number of premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955—		
Butcher	15	
Fried Fish	16	
Ice-cream	65	
Mussels	1	
	97	

MEAT INSPECTION

Number of carcases inspected:

CATTLE	SHEEP	PIGS
294	695	57

Small quantities of condemned meat are disposed of on the Council's refuse tip under the supervision of the foreman. Larger quantities, after staining, are removed by a firm of chemical manufacturers for treatment.

COMMON LODGING-HOUSE REGISTRATION

There is no common lodging-house in the district.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Class of Premises (1)	Number of Premises Registered during the year (2)	Number of Registered Premises at end of year (3)	Number of Registered Premises receiving a general inspection during the year (4)
Offices	17	17	3
Retail Shops	118	118	26
Wholesale Shops and Warehouses	2	2	—
Catering Establishments open to the public, and Canteens....	21	21	—
Fuel Storage Depots	—	—	—
TOTALS	158	158	29

C.W.S.
Pelaw